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SGA VP JOINS PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Andrew Brinker, *Beacon Staff*

The race for the Student Government Association's executive presidency was thrown into turmoil last week after the two candidates originally slated to compete for the position abruptly withdrew from contention, leaving it at risk of vacancy.

Following mounting pressure from peers to bring experience to the organization's premier role, Executive Vice President Will Palauskas told The Beacon in an interview Tuesday that he is officially organizing a write-in campaign for SGA's executive presidency.

The upheaval comes after current Executive President Raz Moayed prepares to step down as she will travel to Emerson's Los Angeles campus in the spring semester.

"There's a lot of things that I have on my mind, and if I can be of use to SGA and of use to the future of this college, especially whether it's with the Marlboro merger or the students' outlook on construction and all that kind of stuff, I figured, why not?" Palauskas said in the interview.

Palauskas officially kicked off his campaign early Wednesday morning, sending out invitations to a Facebook event entitled "Will Palauskas for SGA Executive President," scheduled for Dec. 11, the day voting begins.

A candidate press night, intended to provide students with the opportunity to learn about candidates' stances and platforms, is scheduled for Thursday. Voting in the election will run from Dec. 11 through Dec. 13.

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Will Palauskas announced his write-in campaign after the two other candidates dropped out.

Jakob Menendez / *Beacon Staff*

Drastic spike in employee insurance ignites anxiety

Maxwell Carter, *Beacon Correspondent*

Staff and faculty union leaders are expressing concerns after the Human Resources department announced in October that health insurance renewal costs for 2020 would increase by 16.8 percent.

Faculty and staff union leaders say salaries won't rise fast enough to cover the increased costs and cite a lack of union representation in the announcement while Human Resources representatives cannot confirm if renewal rates will continue to increase in the coming years, citing the irresponsible nature of guessing.

"Effectively, for full-time faculty, it wipes out their cost-of-living wage raise for next year," President of the Emerson College Chapter of the American Association of University Professors Gian Lombardo said in an interview. "It's a measure that they are not getting ahead—that they are, in some ways, being put behind."

Human Resources Senior Associate Vice President Shari Stier said the college's health care plans averaged a 7-percent increase over the past five years, including this year's drastic uptick. She said she hopes costs will go down again next year and emphasized that the average is still below the industry average of 9 percent.

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Chuang Stage adapts Chinese classics in new production

Shruti Rajkumar, *Beacon Correspondent*

Two students dressed in traditional Chinese clothing faced the audience and spoke indirectly to each other in Mandarin from opposite ends of the stage at the Greene Theater as they rehearsed the first scene of Chuang Stage's fall production.

At the beginning of July, senior Alison Qu and graduate students Qianru Wang and Shuyu Zheng, the founders of Chuang Stage, discussed ideas over the phone and compiled reading reports for Chuang Stage's next play. Having studied Chinese classical literature as an undergraduate at the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts, Zheng proposed an exploration of the complexity of Chinese women, which resonated with the other two founders.

By the end of August, they selected and combined excerpts from four 20th-century classical Chinese plays to create an original that focuses on Chinese women from a contemporary perspective. The play, which will be Chuang Stage's second production, is called A Tale of Four Women - The Reimagined Chinese Classics.

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Sophomore wins NEWMAC player of the week

Andrew Lin, *Beacon Staff*



Nate Martin averages 17.3 points per game and shoots 49.4 percent from the field.

Jakob Menendez / *Beacon Staff*

Growing up surrounded by the rich basketball culture of Washington D.C., sophomore guard Nate Martin could not have asked to be raised in a better environment to develop his skills on the court.

Washington D.C. is famous for producing some of the most talented basketball players to compete in the National Basketball Association, with the likes of Elgin Baylor and Kevin Durant raised in the surrounding areas. Martin said former Washington Wizards guard Gilbert Arenas inspired his early development in the game.

"[Arenas] was one of the first players I really saw dominate and score at a high level," Martin said in an interview. "I always watched a lot of his highlights, and I remember one time I saw him at a gas station, and that was pretty cool because I saw that he was a real person and not just like a TV character."

Six games into his sophomore season for the Lions, Martin is averaging a team-high 17.3 points per game—including a career-high 33 points on 11-of-18 shooting in a 99-82 win against Pine Manor on Nov. 26. He raised his shooting percentages from 37.8 percent last season to 49.4 percent this season. Martin won NEWMAC offensive player of the week for the week of Nov. 25.

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News

ECAPS expands staff members’ hours to combat rise of students on campus

Ann E. Matica, *Beacon Correspondent*

Emerson Counseling and Psychological Services gained a new staff member this August and increased the hours of two part-time employees to accommodate an increased on-campus student population.

In 2012, ECAPS had only five therapists who met with students. That number has now doubled with the center employing 10 full-time and part-time licensed therapists who are available to the entire student body.

ECAPS hired Social Worker and Substance Specialist Natalie Waggaman in August 2019 to a position that had been vacant for almost a year. Psychiatrist Stacy Taylor’s hours were increased from six in 2018 to 20 in 2019 and Case Manager Macrina Yah-Buendia took on four days at the center this year instead of her previous three.

In September, more than 900 new students started living in the newly renovated Little Building, causing a 6.9-percent increase of students visiting ECAPS in 2019, the Director of ECAPS Elise Harrison said in an interview. Student visits to ECAPS increased by 45 percent between 2012 and the current 2019 calendar year, rising from 574 to 832 student ECAPS visits, according to ECAPS records at the time of publication.

Harrison said the increase of students visiting ECAPS stems from the rise of mental illness cases in college students and the decreasing stigma surrounding mental health issues. In 2019, 53 percent of students who visited ECAPS already attended therapy outside of the college, Harrison said.

“There are more people who have been in therapy already before they even get to school,” Harrison said in an interview with The Beacon. “So [students] are much more open to continuing therapy.”

ECAPS hired Macrina Yah-Buendia as a case manager in 2018 to look over individual students’ counseling needs and refer therapists outside of the college to students who want more frequent sessions.

“Because we are seeing so many students, we do short-term therapy in ECAPS,” Harrison said. “So if a student comes in and they know that they’ve had a really good experience having weekly therapy and they want to continue that, it’s a really good choice for them to start looking for a therapist in the [Boston] commu-



Director of ECAPS Elise Harrison said student visits to ECAPS increased by 45 percent between 2012 and the current 2019 calendar year. Tivara Tanudjaja / *Beacon Correspondent*

nity.”

According to the American Psychiatric Association, mental health diagnoses in college students increased nationwide by 14 percent between 2007 and 2017. The study, released in Nov. 2018, reported that treatment increased by 15 percent during the same time period.

In 2018, 20 percent of undergraduates at the college received counseling services from ECAPS, Harrison said. She said 544 students have already sought psychological services from the center this semester.

The ECAPS office on the second floor of the Union Bank Building underwent renovations in 2017 that added two more office spaces for therapy sessions. ECAPS does not charge students for services and relies on funds from the college to ac-

commodate the rise of students seeking therapy.

Each year, ECAPS submits a request to Student Affairs for an increase in their budget by Oct. 1. The request then goes on to the Presidents Council and then to the Board of Trustees for review.

“Some years it’s granted and then some years it’s not, or part of it is or part of it isn’t, depending on what other needs Emerson has,” Harrison said.

ECAPS offers a range of services for students, including therapy sessions, group therapy, therapist

referrals and an after-hours crisis line. There is no limit to how many therapy sessions a student can attend at ECAPS.

“This is absolutely our busiest time of year right now, so it takes a little bit longer to get an

“There are more people who have been in therapy already before they even get to school so [students] are much more open to continuing therapy.”

-Elise Harrison

appointment, but usually at the beginning of the year we can get someone in between one and three days after they call for their first appointment,” Harrison said.

In 2019, ECAPS hired Post doctoral Fellow Max Wu who works as a full time therapist for a one year appointment. Starting in 2018, one post-doctorate student who has already received their Ph.D. but is still finishing their doctorate work experience hours is chosen by the ECAPS staff as part of the post doctoral fellow program. ECAPS also selects two graduate student interns with previous experience who conduct supervised therapy sessions for students.

ECAPS submits reports to the International Accreditation of Counseling Services, an accredited psychiatric organization, every year to confirm to students and their families that the college is meeting the appropriate psychological counseling standards. Every eight years IACS visits the ECAPS offices to ensure the department is complying with their requirements.

IACS recommends a one-to-1,500 therapist-to-student ratio. Harrison said ECAPS employs one therapist to every 530 students.

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Hoppe talks ongoing campus construction with SGA

Andrew Brinker, *Beacon Staff*

Vice President and Dean of Campus Life Jim Hoppe spoke with members of the Student Government Association Tuesday about construction projects at the college, announcing that the sidewalk expansion on Boylston Street will conclude for winter in the coming weeks.

Hoppe said the city of Boston requires the college to pause some construction projects during the winter to avoid safety concerns brought on by snowfall and frigid temperatures. Hoppe said construction on the sidewalk should resume around mid-March once the college receives permission from the city.

“Obviously, right now the sidewalk is very narrow and creating some issues,” Hoppe said. “That’s part of the reason the city makes us stop construction during the winter. We have to get it to a point where we can then make it useful as is.”

Hoppe also provided a detailed description of changes to the Little Building and Piano Row coming in the next year.

The first floor of the Little Building is undergoing renovations to become a student performance center that will feature two cabaret-style theaters, a lounge, a food service area, rehearsal studios, and more. Hoppe said the college is hopeful the space will be open at some point next semester.

The Little Building’s second floor will feature a newly announced space known as “The Commons.” Hoppe told SGA members the space will be occupied by one large room that can fit approximately 350 people and can be turned into three smaller rooms.

Piano Row, Hoppe said, will also undergo major renovations as the building will host the college’s new fitness center starting in spring 2021. After the construction is complete, the main entrance to the building will become the doors bordering the seafood restaurant The Shaking Crab, as the fitness center will limit access to the current entrance.

Before Tuesday’s joint session meeting concluded, Hoppe added that some additional

changes are coming in the next year which he said will attempt to make Emerson’s city campus feel more like a traditional college campus.

“[Emerson’s] campus is really just the city right now,” Hoppe said. “To a certain extent, we want it to feel more like an actual campus.”

Some of the changes will include new interactive electronic maps, signs and door covers, colored crosswalks, and path-lining sidewalk stickers.

“This all sounds amazing,” Executive Vice President Will Palauskas said at the meeting.

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Palauskas joins SGA presidential race amid dropouts

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Prior to Palauskas’ announcement, the competition for SGA’s executive presidency appeared to be a two-person race. Sophomore Jake Sockett and SGA Sustainability Commissioner Gianna Girona had both entered the race before abruptly withdrawing.

Sockett, an outsider to the organization, garnered the constitutionally required 50 signatures to appear on the ballot in the week prior to Thanksgiving, but quietly dropped out before beginning a campaign.

Sockett declined to comment on his decision to withdraw from the race.

Girona, a senior, told The Beacon in an email that she intended on running for the presidency and began collecting signatures. However, before she could begin campaigning, she received an email from Director of Student En-

gagement and Leadership Jason Meier informing her that she did not meet the appropriate 2.7 GPA prerequisite for the position, according to Girona.

SGA’s constitution dictates that it is the job of the organization’s advisor—a role Meier is set to step into next semester after current advisor Sharon Duffy leaves to fill another role at the college—to determine the eligibility of candidates for elected positions.

Palauskas is now the only candidate for executive president, leaving a possibility that his current position, executive vice president—a position typically held for two semesters—will become vacant in the spring semester.

Should Palauskas win the presidency, SGA’s constitution dictates that it would be his responsibility to appoint a vice president.

“If the Vice President, Treasurer, or any departmental senator’s position becomes vacant

in the second semester of an academic year after the midterm elections process has commenced, the SGA president shall appoint a replacement for the rest of the semester, subject to a two-thirds approval by a Joint Session,” it reads.

Already, Palauskas is branding himself as an experienced candidate who can successfully ease the college through what he describes as an upcoming period of change.

“This semester, especially after getting through the [academic] initiative and the [academic] town hall, I feel more confident about doing this than ever before,” he said.

In the Facebook event, Palauskas pointed to the upcoming merger with Marlboro College as a major transitional period for Emerson, citing the approximately 100 students and 20 tenure and tenure-track faculty who could potentially come to the college next year.

“Together, we can help prepare our com-

munity for the changes in the future that are coming,” the event’s details section reads. “I’m asking for you to write me in because I believe I can help work towards a future that works for all of us here at Emerson College.”

Executive President Raz Moayed said she believes Palauskas is well-fit for the position.

“I think Will is going to make an amazing executive president,” she said. “Anyone who truly has a vision for this role and knows the ins and outs of SGA can do no wrong.”

News Editor Stephanie Purifoy did not edit this article due to a conflict of interest.

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ArtsEmerson donor reflects on time as Marlboro Trustee

Dana Gerber, *Beacon Staff*

Lifetime Marlboro College trustee Ted Wendell, 79, first found out about the Vermont college’s merger with Emerson a week before the official announcement over dinner with Marlboro President Kevin Quigley.

“A little bit before the announcement, [Quigley] said that there were discussions beginning with Emerson,” Wendell said in a phone interview with The Beacon. “He didn’t actually say Emerson, but he implied it.”

Wendell is one of two Marlboro College Board of Trustees members with a prior connection to Emerson. The other, Donna Heiland, was previously the assistant to President M. Lee Pelton at Emerson.

Heiland declined to comment; however, she said she would discuss her thoughts on the merger at a later date.

Wendell is no stranger to Emerson. His son graduated from the college in 2006, and Wendell was one of the first donors to the ArtsEmerson program, supporting his close friend and ArtsEmerson founder Robert Orchard.

ArtsEmerson screens films, stages theatrical productions, and puts on other events for the Boston community at large. Wendell and his wife Mary still donate to ArtsEmerson, now in its tenth season, and are on the honorary founder’s council.

“I just came along because it looked interesting to me,” he said. “I’ve been thrilled at the impact that ArtsEmerson is having on the city of Boston, and how the original vision has now matured.”

While Wendell said the prospect of losing the Marlboro campus disappointed him, he said the merger was ultimately a victory for both



Marlboro College trustee Ted Wendell was one of the first donors to the ArtsEmerson program.

Photo courtesy of marlboro.edu

communities since he believes Emerson’s and Marlboro’s liberal arts programs complement each other. He also said Marlboro student’s involvement in college-wide decisions—such as their weekly Town Meeting forums—will positively influence Emerson.

On Nov. 24, Emerson welcomed approximately 40 Marlboro students to the Boston campus to see ArtsEmerson’s production of “The Iliad.”

“This is a way of introducing to Marlboro some of the richness that Emerson has to offer and getting them on the actual campus,” Wendell said. “I think getting the two parties to get to know each other and start to understand the

strengths and values of each of the others is the best way to have it be smooth and fruitful for both sides—to have this new relationship prosper.”

Wendell graduated from Harvard and came to Marlboro College in 1962 to become a math teacher. Outside of a one-year break to earn his graduate degree from the University of Washington, he stayed to teach math at Marlboro until 1966. He then became the college’s first full-time dean of students, and students dubbed him the “teen dean” because of his young age.

Wendell then left to work in finance and banking at Northern Cross, LLC, but returned to Marlboro College in 1979 to serve on their

Board of Trustees. He retired from Marlboro in 2018 after a 56-year career at the college. He earned an honorary degree from Marlboro in 2015 as a Doctor of Humane Letters.

At Marlboro’s 2018 commencement, Quigley and Richard Saudek, chair of the Board of Trustees, named Wendell a “trustee for life, without parole.” The title is solely ceremonial; he no longer exercises any power on the board, attends meetings, or casts votes. Because of this, Wendell did not participate in the Emerson merger decision.

Wendell and his wife also helped start the Bridges program at Marlboro, which offers fully funded activities such as backpacking, dance, and writing as an orientation program to welcome new students.

Due to the threat of low admissions, Wendell knew Marlboro might enter into a merger.

“I was peripherally kept up on the discussions Marlboro was having with other [colleges], but I didn’t have any influence,” he said. “I think they didn’t want to spring a big change on us without having some sort of forewarning that something was happening.”

Wendell said his inside knowledge of both communities gave him the peace of mind that the merger was a good fit.

“It was a wonderful surprise that this confluence of two rivers of my life were happening,” he said. “I could see that this was a way that the integrity of the liberal arts program could really be infused into a situation where it could help and have a continuing life.”

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Employee union leaders say wages won’t keep up with insurance costs

Continued from page 1

“This is new terrain for Emerson,” Stier said in an interview. “We’ve had rich plans and low rates until now, but it is in Emerson’s best interest not to increase renewals because we pay 75 percent of it.”

Lombardo and leaders of the other three employee unions said they had the first of what they hope to be regular meetings with human resources to discuss how to manage such developments in the future on Nov. 19.

“Nobody from any of the unions were going in looking for heads,” Chair of the Service Employees International Union at Emerson Dennis Levine said. “That was not the intent of the meeting. That’s not what this is about. The intent is to understand some more, find out why things were done the way they were, and come up with a way we can work with administration and management to possibly alleviate potential problems down the road.”

The sharp increase for 2020 is the result of a few expensive health care claims that far exceeded the college’s insurance fund in 2019. A relatively low number of inexpensive claims have kept premium costs fluctuating between 1 and 6 percent over the past few years, according to data provided by human resources.

Instead of raising health costs for individuals who make expensive claims, Emerson spreads the spike across the college’s entire network, Stier told The Beacon—raising premiums for all employees. This strategy is meant to lighten the load on those in need of more care, but means premiums will still go up for those who don’t make a single claim if others in the network use the coverage more than usual.

Emerson pays for care on a claim-by-claim basis from a fund they control rather than paying a lump sum to their network provider, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. The fund is sourced from employees’ and the school’s yearly renewal fees, which are calculated based on expenses from previous years. The less money spent on health care in a given year, the lower the renewal fees are likely to be in the next. If costs exceed the money set aside to cover claims in

a fiscal year, as they did in 2019, renewal fees will go up to match those costs expected in the new year.

The all-faculty meetings to explain the cost to faculty and staff were scheduled the morning of Oct. 22—the same day professor Moses Shumow died in a train accident. Despite the gravity of Shumow’s death, human resource representatives decided to move forward with the presentation they had prepared. Stier said there was no time to wait with open enrollment for health care plans just two weeks away.

Director of Programming in the Visual Media Arts Department Anna Feder said she was immediately worried about colleagues she knew who were already struggling emotionally and would be hit hardest economically.

She said she spoke out during the human resource department’s presentation.

“This is all really disturbing,” Feder said in the interview. “I mean, not that I’m expecting them to answer for our health care system, but this conversation, it was just so impersonal and dehumanizing.”

Administrative Associate to the Chair of the Journalism Department Christopher Wilson said some faculty and staff concerns go beyond financial questions and communication breakdowns. Some are worried that the college’s interest in keeping prices low might stigmatize those who use their

health care more than others.

“Would they discriminate against someone in hiring or firing because of illness or health?” Wilson said in an interview.

Stier said she is aware of fears that the school might cut down on health care costs by pushing out chronically ill, disabled, or elderly employees, or by discouraging them from applying. She said healthcare is there for people to use it and said punishing individuals that need and use the coverage is nearly impossible as a result of medical confidentiality laws.

“Even if people think we would, we couldn’t,” she said. “We are legally bound not to make plan decisions based on that information.”

Lombardo said he wished the process had involved unions before Emerson announced



Emerson professor Gian Lombardo said he wished Emerson involved unions in insurance talks.

Photo courtesy of emerson.edu

the decision unilaterally. He added that unions could have helped in terms of communicating with employees at the school.

“There was a lag between finding out when this was happening in August and being told in October,” Lombardo said in an interview. “There was a good amount of time where the unions could have been called in and conferred with in advance.”

Levine said most staff didn’t find out until a few days after the Oct. 22 all-faculty meeting.

“We had gotten word from the faculty after the meeting, but it was like a day or two days later when the email went out to everybody,” Levine said in an interview. “As soon as that email came up, our email was lighting up like a Christmas tree, you know? It’s like, what’s

going on?”

Stier admitted the delay between alerting faculty and staff could have been avoided, but refuted claims that the human resources department delayed the announcement intentionally.

The department sent the initial email to faculty and staff as soon as the Board of Trustees approved the increase, Stier said. The college finalized the plan around a month after the school completed negotiations with Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and less than two weeks before enrollment for 2020 health care plans opened on Nov. 4.

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Editorial

Vacancies on the SGA ballot should not be the norm

As Emerson continues to expand its academics and its campus, the Student Government Association functions as a vital pipeline among students, the administration, and the Board of Trustees. The organization oversees the student activities fund, charges itself with protecting the rights of the students they govern, and represents the interests of each class and major.

Yet it seems like every time SGA elections roll around, important positions within the organization have the potential to remain unoccupied. Some roles listed on the ballot are entirely absent of candidates. And this year is no different.

This month, the two candidates vying for the executive president position dropped out unexpectedly following Executive President Raz Moayed’s decision to step down to attend Emerson Los Angeles next semester. Will Palauskas, the current executive vice president, launched an official write-in campaign on Tuesday, only a week before elections.

Palauskas could be the saving grace for SGA—the solution to fill a vacancy that may threaten the daily workings of the entire organization. With semesters of experience in SGA, he could serve as an alternative option for voters to fall back on. But even then, his potential election to the position would leave his current role as vice president unoccupied.

The SGA operates quietly behind the curtain for our student population. However, every semester, SGA holds events to promote communication and learn more about students’ needs to no avail.

But all of us, as members of the Emerson community, should take it upon ourselves to end these recurring openings on the ballot. We owe ourselves options—multiple, qualified candidates who can be responsible for the minute decisions that allow our campus to run smoothly. As impassioned students who care about the state of our campus and its future, we should take it upon ourselves to vote, of course, but also to run.

The Beacon’s editorial board has repeatedly fought for students’ increased involvement with SGA. When The Beacon’s editorial board saw a diverse slate of options vying for the executive president position in 2015, they wrote an entire editorial commending the candidates. But more often than not, the editorial board has pressed students to up their engagement with SGA. In fact, in March 2017, The Beacon wrote an editorial titled “Please run a write-in campaign” with the same sentiments we are fighting for today. The fact that we have been writing similar editorials asking students to participate for years speaks to both poor marketing on the part of SGA and lack of community engagement in student government.

In an interview with The Beacon last April, Palauskas mirrored our concerns.

“If we can make every student at Emerson involved in student government, whether they’re just voting or actually holding a position, then that’s when we’ll actually have succeeded,” he previously told The Beacon.

Today, this goal still seems far off.

Last year, the number of students who came out to vote for SGA elections skyrocketed—875 students voted in April, a 230-percent increase from years before. Unfortunately, this still means that less than half the student population voted in elections. The spring election marked the highest voter turnout since 2009. Now, we encourage those who contributed to student government by voting to come out and run for positions.

We understand how applying for these positions of power can be intimidating. The SGA appears more bureaucratic than other groups on campus because they work closely with administration. This impression makes SGA feel more “formal” and being a part of the organization brings with it significant responsibility.

Students may also be turned off by the amount of time SGA positions would command. For example, the treasurer plays a critical role in the functions of almost 100 student organizations largely on their own. Ian Mandt, who served two years as executive treasurer, previously told The Beacon he has seen executive treasurers withdraw from courses and endure panic attacks, sleep deprivation, and constant stress. He also said the job affected his academic experience at school and called for change.

These concerns surrounding the SGA positions are real and prevalent. They deserve the attention of students and faculty both inside and outside the organisation. But still, nothing is scarier than the possibility of an incomplete SGA, unequipped to shoulder the burden of the responsibilities the group is tasked with.

Arguably, SGA’s role is more essential today than ever before. This coming September, the college expects to absorb nearly 100 new students and 20 tenure or tenure-track faculty members from Marlboro College. Despite the finished construction of 172 Tremont and Little Building early this semester, construction in and around our campus continues. New global pathways programs are being added. As tuition steadily increases and our student population grows even larger, our community has as much at stake today as we have since SGA’s creation.

To leave any SGA position open—especially one that comes with as much responsibility as the executive president—would be a logistical catastrophe. Right now, it seems as if students have normalized vacancies on the ballot, but this is a dangerous pattern to fall into. We must move beyond voting while still understanding its importance. Whether you feel qualified or not, as a student and an advocate for your peers, run for SGA positions and bring change to the campus.

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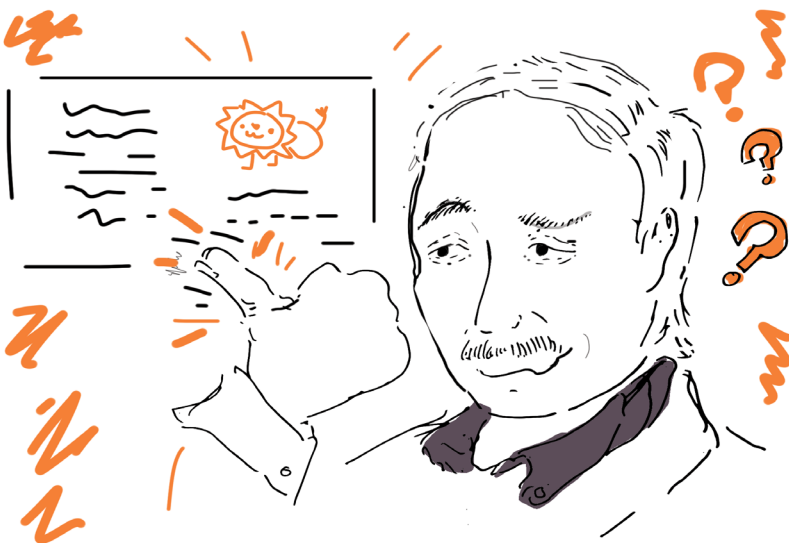
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without consultation from other staff members, and does not influence any stories.

Editorial Cartoon

by the Editorial Board
illustration by Ally Rzesza



Thank you to everyone who enjoyed my cartoons, and thank you to our advisor Doug for never getting them.
-Ally

Beacon Horoscopes

Written by Dasha German

Which winter activity are you?

Putting lights up

Scorpio
Aquarius

A hot tub somewhere deep, deep inside

Virgo
Pisces

Skiing

Capricorn
Sagittarius

Ice skating

Gemini
Aries

Chilling by the fire while you eat fondue

Cancer
Libra

Snowball Fight

Taurus
Leo

Letters To The Editor

If you want to respond to, or share an opinion about, an article in The Beacon, you can write a short letter to the editor. Email it to letters@berkeleybeacon.com. Please note that letters may be edited. Submissions for print must be shorter than 250 words.

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Opinion

A goodbye from two of our managing editors

Beacon friends, it's been real

What The Beacon taught me



Jakob Menendez / Beacon Staff

Abigail Hadfield

Hadfield is a junior writing, literature, and publishing major and The Beacon's copy managing editor.

When I first joined The Beacon my first semester freshman year, I never once imagined I would be where I am now, as a managing editor, writing a farewell column. I was just a bright-eyed young journalist, looking to pick up any pitch possible and get a byline.

Two years later, I am somehow second in command to our editor-in-chief, I have countless bylines I'm incredibly proud of, and I've watched this paper move from a weekly print product to a daily online news source. I couldn't be more proud of the work both I and my colleagues have accomplished here.

As much as I'm grateful to this paper for giving me bylines and experience writing and editing, there's so much more I've gotten out of my time here.

For one, I now have an inordinate amount of knowledge about IRS Form 990 tax forms—I could tell you in detail all about the college's

expenses and revenues from the last decade. And I know more about this school's Title IX policies than I do about my own apartment lease.

And, most importantly, I have formed incredible friendships with people who inspire me every day. When you spend every Monday and Wednesday night with the same people for two and a half years, you get to spend a lot of quality time together. Sometimes we're stressed and yelling at each other about deadlines, and sometimes we're just cracking up at jokes we

"I couldn't be more proud of the work both I and my colleagues have accomplished here."

would only find funny at 1:45 a.m. before we go to print.

Ultimately, if it wasn't for my time on The Beacon, there's so much I wouldn't know about this college. I love always being in the know on the news around campus, and I love that working here has given me the chance to interview members of the upper administration. The Beacon has allowed me to engage with everything going on at Emerson in a way I never would have otherwise.

So, after two and a half years—from my time in opinion, to news, to being a managing editor, through all the nights I've spent crying in my dorm over deadlines and all my front page stories—after all this, all I can say is thank you.

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Jakob Menendez / Beacon Staff

Kyle Bray

Bray is a junior journalism major and The Beacon's visual managing editor.

I'll never forget the first time I had one of my articles critiqued for The Beacon. I was a first-semester freshman and had just written my first real journalistic article. It was a simple season preview for the men's soccer team, which felt daunting at the time, but later would be something I could do blindfolded.

Our advisor at the time did not have much to say about it. But he did call out that I used the word "currently" in a sentence and told me not to because it was implied that all news is current. That single edit has stayed with me to this day. Many on staff will surely remember me saying, "Don't use currently, it's implied that it's current."

Looking back on my time at The Beacon, this subtle moment perfectly encapsulates what this paper means to me. So many of us come into college with little to no journalistic experience—or maybe that was just me—and can often be thrown into the mess that is the art

of journalism. While the journalism classes at this school have taught me a lot about this craft, I have had no greater teacher than The Berkeley Beacon—sorry Doug.

There is no better way to learn than by doing, and that's the way it works at The Beacon. We're all just students trying our hands at a tough job. Sometimes we're thrown into the fire and have no choice other than to figure it out. We get real world experiences and get to write stories that have real impact—take our Marlboro coverage as an example.

I was thrown into the fire as a freshman when I took over as sports editor in only my second semester. I truthfully had no idea what I was doing, but I figured it out in the end.

Now as a managing editor, I get the opportunity to play a major role in the decisions of the paper I love. It's stressful because, as I will readily admit, sometimes we don't always make the right call. But in the end, I love doing things that have a tangible impact on the future. This summer, I redesigned our print edition on a late night in my room with music blaring and a bottle of wine. When I finally got to see how it came out on paper, it filled me with immense joy because I got to see the impact I have played out in real time.

I'm grateful for my time at The Beacon because it gave me opportunities to write stories about the two things I love the most: sports and music. But overall, I'm grateful for the family it gave me. My greatest fear when going to college was that I wouldn't find a group of people I'd truly fit in with, and I couldn't have been more wrong. The Beacon gave me a great group of friends, people who share my passion for writing and journalism. I'll treasure the memories of the great times spent in the two newsrooms we had, cracking jokes and blasting music. Frankly, I don't know where I would be without The Beacon in my life—other than getting much more sleep on Wednesday nights.

Although it is time for me to move on, I leave this paper in good hands and am excited to see what is yet to come.

Just don't change my new design too quickly though.

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Mistakes and missteps: Accepting the art of failure

Ally Rzesza

Rzesza is a senior journalism major and The Beacon's graphic design director.

I have had plenty of leadership and followership positions, and I have royally messed up all of them. If I could intern in making mistakes, I would reject the position because I deserve to be the executive director of the space cadet department. Although it sucks to be slapped in the face with self-doubt, rejection, and denial on a daily basis, I've found solace in the art of failure: Mistakes are far less important than the actions you take to move forward.

I'm not talking about seismic earthquakes when I refer to mistakes; I'm talking about some hiccups and a fart, not the plague. Mistakes only become earthquakes when you do nothing about them. For some random, totally-not-real example, goofing up your deadline for an op-ed qualifies as a mistake. I could flee from the opinion section like a tired Pokemon trainer, sure, but that'd leave me in a pretty awkward situation considering I create two-thirds of the illustrations and graphics for The Beacon and communicate with the opinion editor on a near-daily basis. Instead, I explained to her that I missed my deadline because I wanted to switch my topic.

Don't worry—I managed to retain the trust of the benevolent editor who deals with my always-skirting-the-deadline graphics.

Training your mind to proactively think of ways to remedy mistakes and communicate better maintains your credibility and sanity. Fixating on or ignoring what you've done wrong leads people down a dangerous slope of negative habits. As much as I love spilling some steaming tea, gossiping about mistakes needs to evaporate when it prevents you from reinforcing positive action, discouraging self-deprecation,



"Mistakes are far less important than the actions you take to move forward." • Illustration by Ally Rzesza / Beacon Staff

and acknowledging negative emotions in a healthy way. Flinging insults, being passive aggressive, or acting as a bystander instead of communicating brews trauma and gets us all nowhere.

The enemy of forgiveness is inaction. Misunderstandings, animosity, and guilt overflow when people fixate on the past and don't express what they feel. If you are honestly trying your best—and people can always tell if you actually try your best—and you fail, it's likely easier to fix the problem than the doomsday scenario you've conjured in your head. As long as you act quickly and focus on improving the future, people are more likely than not to forgive you. And if someone mistreats you due to your transgression, that's a mistake on their part: No one has any obligation

to forgive you, but they also have no right to discredit your effort for their own ego.

Remember what happened, but attempt to forgive others and yourself for every problem you can. Do this for your own sake if for nothing else. Releasing negative emotions has been scientifically proven to improve overall health.

I work as a dance teacher at an afterschool program, and you would not believe how tangled interpersonal relations can get in a game of four-square. A dash of forgiveness can be the difference between 50 smooth rounds and five chaotic messes that leave two children crying and one trying to deflate the ball.

College creates a breeding ground for grievances. Every student organization has its sharp edges since they're staffed by overworked

students volunteering tons of hours to unpaid and underappreciated positions on top of jobs and schoolwork. For housing, we smush people from dramatically different socioeconomic backgrounds together in very expensive and very tiny rooms—what could go wrong?

Applaud others when you recognize them overcoming flaws and practicing healthy habits. It's hard to communicate and takes so much effort to combat cognitive distortions, or the way humans warp events in their mind until they believe something untrue. Everyone has different adversities and backstories that spark conflict in ways you can't predict. I still spiral out of control and become useless when I feel like I've failed.

Humans will inevitably err, and it's never wrong to feel and process adverse feelings for as long as you need to. Still, we can at least try to take steps to reframe how we think about problems so we're not trapped in pessimism for longer than the length of a few rants to your roommate, some sweet treats, and a couple of Baby Yoda meme compilations.

Am I constantly feeling embittered around a certain friend? I need to explain how I'm feeling. Did I fail to follow through on a promise? I should reach out as soon as I can and find out how I can repair the situation. Do I bark at my roommate when I get home because I'm hangry? I'll buy some snacks.

Try to look at the world as a place to improve and forgive, rather than a soap opera where sticky situations make you boil in self-hate and frustration. I'm still working on it, but this train of thought makes it a bit easier to work at the Space Cadet Academy as the I'm-bad-at-deadlines executive director.

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Living Arts

Person of Color Column: Language does not define my identity



Jade Lopez is a sophomore journalism major and this week's POC columnist.

When someone hears my last name, they often tell me something along the lines of “I didn’t know you were Hispanic.”

Growing up in a predominantly white area in Thurmont, Maryland, this statement was typically followed by “Well, you don’t look like it.” This never really bothered me until I moved to Boston.

When I came to college, I thought these comments would finally end because I thought Boston would be a more diverse and accepting place—quickly, I was proven wrong. Now, instead of being told “Well, you don’t look like it” or something of that sentiment, people will say to me, “Say something in Spanish, then.” My discomfort doesn’t come from me telling them that I don’t speak the language, or following it with the explanation that my Puerto Rican father left when I was little, but from the tone of voice and facial expressions I receive after.

The look of dissatisfaction or judgment that emerges across their faces and the snarky tone of “oh” or “mhm” that follows after I explain makes me question myself—does not speaking Spanish make me less Hispanic?

Confessing that I don’t speak Spanish has always been something I was ashamed to admit

because it made me feel I couldn’t claim my Hispanic identity. This feeling, called “language insecurity” in the academic community, is especially common among second-generation Latinx people in the U.S., according to Amelia Tseng, professor of linguistics at Georgetown University. Tseng stated that some people simply may not want to learn Spanish.

“That’s OK, let’s celebrate all identities, and not just the ones we think are correct,” Tseng told NPR.

Suddenly, all those memories of jamming out to my favorite Latino artists, making fajitas at 2 a.m., opening Christmas presents on Christmas Eve, and honoring Hispanic Heritage Month meant something less than what they were: times where I embraced my Hispanic culture. All because I can’t speak the language.

A huge part of who I am feels erased by the stigma around being a “real” Hispanic or

Latina—defined by being able to speak Spanish—all because I speak a different colonizer’s language. Even though I wasn’t given a choice

or the resources to learn the language, society claims it’s a large part of what defines my identity.

My Puerto Rican ancestors went through the Spanish-American War, having their territory and homes taken over by Americans who filled their heads with false promises and fake hope. Although the colonizers had promised to leave the territory as it was, the U.S. instead

ignored the new, democratically elected local parliament of Puerto Rico in favor of creating its own colonial system. Puerto Ricans were outraged after the war. Instead of becoming citizens, they were in limbo. They couldn’t even have a passport; they didn’t have any legal standing in the U.S. system until 1917, 19 years after the war began.

“Confessing that I don’t speak Spanish has always been something I was ashamed to admit because it made me feel like I couldn’t claim my Hispanic identity.”

So to those who think speaking Spanish qualifies someone as Hispanic or Latinx, think again. What my past generations went through, and what Puerto Rico is still going through, is a fight to survive. Nearly 40 percent of Puerto Rico’s residents live in poverty; the median household income as of 2017 was \$19,775. Since Hurricane Maria, many parts of Puerto Rico have scarce amounts of food, medicine, and drinking water, amid a growing humanitarian crisis. What my ancestors went through has nothing to do with the language they spoke, so why should I have to identify with it?

The belief that a cultural identity is based on if a person speaks a certain language has led me to isolate myself from my own identity. Throughout my life, I’ve always felt like I was teetering between my American and Hispanic ethnicity for this reason.

I don’t have to prove that I am Hispanic or Latinx to anyone. Choosing to celebrate my ethnicity, deciding to follow set traditions for my culture, and being able to speak a language or not does not make me any more or less of who I am: a Hispanic.

To the other Hispanic or Latinx people who feel the same societal expectations to learn a language we weren’t brought up on—you’re just as Hispanic as those who speak Spanish. You are Hispanic enough.

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New play from Chuang Stage highlights Chinese societal issues



Chuang Stage performers rehearse “A Tale of Four Women: The Reimagined Chinese Classics” in the Greene Theatre. • Couresty of Adam Guo and Zi Huang

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The show was performed on Dec. 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Greene Theatre.

Founded last semester, the theater group performs plays in Mandarin. Sophomore and director of Chuang Stage Devina Fan said the group is not Emerson exclusive and includes Mandarin-speaking college students from other schools in Boston.

The production comprises 18 actors and 22 production members, according to Qu. Each day, the group practices a different excerpt, and the rehearsals can go for four hours on week-

days to eight hours on weekends.

The selected excerpts in the play are called The Wilderness, The Family, The Thunderstorm, and The Golden Cangue. Each excerpt reflects societal issues of the 20th century, including arranged marriages, gender power dynamics, and contradicting mindsets due to generational differences.

“We wanted to center [the play] around female characters,” Qu said. “Not just a plain beautiful woman, [but] a woman with some sort of desire and will, and her experience has to reflect the society and the social constructs of that time.”

Upon reading the play at the beginning of the semester, Fan said she chose to incorporate a narrator that introduces each scene to the audience. In China, many stories are performed in tea shops and incorporate a storyteller, which Fan said inspired her creation of the narrator.

“I didn’t want to present the play directly to the audience because I don’t feel like they could get the message of it,” Fan said. “Having a narrator to explain each scene would help the audience understand the big picture.”

Qu said all the plays put on by Chuang Stage are performed in Mandarin because she feels she has a duty to keep the Chinese classics

authentic and in their original language. These plays wouldn’t be the same if they were performed in English, as they would lose certain meanings and nuances that native speakers understand, she said.

Qu recognizes that for non-Mandarin speaking audience members, there is often a limitation to how much they can understand, so the actors rely on theatrical language as a form of translation. She said she hopes that the theatrical language will translate to the audience effectively.

“There’s a certain beauty and a certain art in not understanding,” Qu said. “When you realize that you just don’t understand the language, you start to look at the form, the acting, the staging—you look at the overall impact on you. You’re shifting the focus away from language and [toward] the form of art.”

Freshman Jared Guo co-starred with Qu in The Golden Cangue. Guo said that he got to develop and practice his theatrical skills during rehearsals.

“We broke down into parts and smaller groups ... We sat in a circle to talk about our characters, and we did our rehearsal [line by line],” Guo said. “There’s a member who didn’t have much experience ... so we helped him a lot with the body movement and volume, and this kind of helped me to build my character.”

Fan said there were subtitles incorporated for the Dec. 3 performance; however, the theatrical language was still a focus area for the group.

“Every actor is very dedicated to our play, but [some] didn’t have professional training of their language, voice, and bodies, so we did put a lot of time on making [sure] their volume was up and ... exaggerating their expressions,” Fan said.

Fan said that the actors also derive the emotions of their characters from their personal lives, which helps drive the story’s message and translates it to the audience.

“I would probably want [the audience] to understand not only the Chinese culture or family rules or traditions, but also the feelings of these characters,” Guo said. “I want them to be put in the shoes of every character. I want to express the feeling of my character, and I hope others can get [that] feeling.”

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Alum launches business in hopes of igniting local music scene

Grace Rispoli, *Beacon Correspondent*

Pat Timmons ‘17 spent his time at Emerson in basements surrounded by vibrant colors, independent artists, and crowds of onlookers.

Whether the shows attracted 10 people or 50, he watched musicians play their music with every ounce of energy they could give. Inspired by the artists he watched, Timmons decided to use his marketing communications degree to support them.

After finishing his masters of arts and music business degree at Berklee College of Music in September, Timmons launched Pop Off Agency to aid independent artists with branding, social media, and content creation after developing the company during his master’s capstone project.

“Their work ethic is for themselves, and it’s like their energy is just really coming from the passion they have behind their music and their work,” he said in a phone interview. “I think being able to take their vision and make it a reality with them is really exciting.”

Timmons began a masters of music industry leadership program at Northeastern University but transferred to Berklee after they created the arts and music business program. However, Timmons met all of Pop Off’s current team members at Northeastern.

The team includes Timmons, executive officer and founder; Paula Aciego Mendoza, chief operating officer; Edmond Chen, chief creative officer; and Ben Silvers, chief financial officer.

Timmons handles social media management, Mendoza provides data analytics of engagement, Chen works with visuals, and Silvers works with legal and financial aspects of the company.

Timmons said the team personally tailors the work they do to fit clients’ needs. When a client works with them, Pop Off asks what the client’s three main goals are—for example, more followers on social media or higher community engagement. According to Timmons, Pop Off then dives into the data of the client’s existing social media to understand their fan base. By knowing the demographics of their supporters, the agency helps the client appeal more to their supporters.

Silvers said Pop Off takes care of these services so artists can focus on creating music.



Pat Timmons ‘17 created Pop Off after experiencing live local music in Boston. • *Courtesy of Pat Timmons*

“If I can file those copyright registrations for them and get them on streaming platforms via distribution channels, and if [Timmons] can manage their social media, and if [Chen] can do their photography and graphic design, and if [Aciego Mendoza] can get them all their analytics, that’s just something they don’t have to worry about and they can focus on making great music,” Silvers said.

Silvers also said he also acts as the liaison between the company and their lawyer, though he plans to get a law degree and become the company’s lawyer in the future.

Pop Off’s website lists many of its clients, including work with Entertainment for Change and Boston-based pop-punk band Start the Week Over. Hard rock and blues band Sons Lunar is one of the companies biggest clients, and Timmons said they have worked with the band for a long time.

Sons Lunar is lead vocalist Alex Simpson said

he knows that, as an independent artist, running the business side of a band can be overwhelming without assistance.

“What goes into making a band run is really a lot for a singular person to handle,” Simpson said in a phone interview. “I mean, that’s why major label bands have a tour manager, a personal manager, personal assistants, and they’ve got booking agents and lawyers and everything. They have a whole team because doing all of that by yourself is a lot.”

Timmons said Sons Lunar is began to work with him alone in January 2018 before he officially launched the agency. When they began working together, Sons Lunar is had 800 followers on Facebook. At the time of publication, they have over 2,000.

“Having the setup with them where they can help us continue that kind of thing on the social media websites and pages definitely makes the success of the band that much more, because

our fans know what we’re doing and they know when our shows are and then they interact—they come out to the shows,” Simpson said. “Social media actually boosted it because we’re working the algorithm correctly in ways that I myself wouldn’t know.”

The agency facilitated the social media campaign “Sonsday,” where the band posts a song cover on Facebook and Instagram every Sunday. Pop Off can then analyze which songs perform best, showing which musical styles fans prefer. Timmons said the covers attract high online engagement and are used to inform live shows and recording albums.

Timmons said Pop Off is not a full-time job for any of the members. The profits are not enough to be a sole source of income, as Pop Off aims to be affordable to independent artists.

“It’s something that we just kind of want to do to benefit the Boston music community, as well as any indie community in general,” he said. “And it’s just kind of like a passion project.”

Timmons stressed that independent artists need three main things to be successful: music available on streaming services, a great live show, and a strong presence on social media and within their city.

Silvers believes the independent music scene in Boston is enormous and resilient, which is one of the reasons Timmons created Pop Off.

“What is common and great about Boston is the kind of underground indie music scene, and that’s kind of the population we’re trying to serve,” Silvers said. “And I think that’s specific to Boston out of the areas that we do serve, which are LA, New York, Boston.”

When designing the concept of Pop Off at Berklee, Timmons said that he was told he should turn it into a business. After Timmons decided to do so, his classmates told him that he was “filling a gap” in Boston.

“Boston has a special place in all of our hearts—you know personally my passion is because I was born and raised in the Boston area,” Timmons said. “And I really would love to see this city become a music city.”

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Victorious prison debate from 1950’s resurfaces at exhibit

Katiana Hoefle, *Beacon Staff*

Seeking a deeper history of Emerson College’s work in prisons, Emerson Prison Initiative faculty members sifted through the Iwasaki Library’s archives.

They found documents explaining how former Emerson professors Coleman Bender and Haig der Marderosian coached the Norfolk Prison Colony debate team, which won 268 competitions and only lost six against schools such as Emerson, Harvard University, and University of Oxford in the mid-1900s.

Mneesha Gellman, director of the Emerson Prison Initiative, and Robert Fleming, executive director of the Iwasaki Library, decided they needed to showcase these findings. Less than a year later, on Nov. 21, 2019, and with the help of the Emerson Forensics Team, the Iwasaki Library presented the Disrupting Mass Incarceration Exhibit.

“Emerson College has a history of social change in prison that was in danger of being forgotten,” Gellman said in an interview.

Gellman began the presentation by describing the information EPI found in the archives regarding the Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Norfolk. Jennifer Williams and Christina Dent from the Iwasaki Library made informative posters on this history and hung them in the library.

“A superintendent [Howard B. Gill] was appointed at the prison in Norfolk, which is a state prison, that was really focused on a philosophy of reform and cultivation of the mind rather than punitive punishment,” Gellman said. “It was a distinct shift from retributive justice or punishing justice toward a more restorative approach.”

Gill created many prison initiatives, including the Norfolk Prison Colony debate team. However, after Gill retired, Norfolk prison did not sustain many of his policies, including the debate team.

The event included free ice cream provided

by Ben & Jerry’s, posters showing a timeline of the newfound history, a debate demonstration, and various speakers, including EPI faculty members Gellman, Cara Moyer-Duncan, and Deion Hawkins.

Emerson faculty teach liberal arts courses to people who are incarcerated in a Massachusetts Correctional Institution in Concord as part of the initiative. Currently, Emerson has enrolled 20 students in prison in EPI.

“Central to the Emerson Prison Initiative is the access to high-quality education, an education that recognizes the potential of and nurtures each human being is a fundamental human right,” Moyer-Duncan said.

Moyer-Duncan read one of the quotes of the students in prison named Ray during the event: “For 25 years the answer ‘this is all I know’ was the reasoning for my incarceration. EPI has allowed me to realize prison is not all I know.”

Gellman included a vignette by an alumnus who participated in a debate with the Norfolk prison team in the 1950s about the impact of rock and roll.

“I was trying to point out that the suggestive language in the songs was problematic by playing them, and the whole audience started singing the words so loudly and getting rowdy that the guards had to stop them,” Gellman said, quoting the alumni. “The story made the front page of Variety and the Daily Worker. It was a memorable experience.”

Gellman hopes to reach out to other alumni in the future that were also involved in the Norfolk prison project to contribute more to the Emerson archives.

This information, despite its availability in the library archives, was new to many faculty members including Hawkins, director of the Emerson College Forensics Team.

“We have a long-term goal to restart the debate portion [with other prisons’ debate teams],” Hawkins said.

The Forensics Team, which acts much like a debate team, gave a demonstration of the style



Mneesha Gellman is the director of the Emerson Prison Initiative and organized the Disrupting Mass Incarceration Exhibit. • Brooke Northup / *Beacon Archives*

of debate the Norfolk prison team used. Sophomore Sara Hathaway and junior Jenna Dewji debated the topic of whether access to education is a right that should be given to prisoners. They clarified, however, that this was all for a demonstration, and both believe that education is a fundamental right.

EPI also provided pamphlets at the exhibit to give more in-depth background on their organization. They included photographs of cells in various states around America as well and quotes from students and faculty members that were involved in the prison initiative class offered by Emerson. The students were only quoted by their first names due to the prison’s privacy regulations.

Although the program only has two student volunteers, Gellman said that EPI intends to

make student involvement in the program available for credit.

“As faculty, as students, [and] as administrators at a leading liberal arts college that prides itself for its sense of justice, we have a responsibility to use our privilege to expand access to higher education,” Moyer-Duncan said. “I can think of no better way to use our knowledge, to use our resources, and to use our time than to heed the calls of incarcerated people who are asking for a transformative education that will allow them to imagine and to realize different possibilities for themselves.”

Assistant Arts Editor Melanie Curry did not edit this article due to conflict of interest.

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Sports

Swiss basketball player finds academics and athletics at Emerson

Lara Hill, *Beacon Staff*

After moving to Boston from Wädenswil, Switzerland, freshman center Chloe Allen is adapting to a college setting and learning the style of basketball played in the United States.

“The transition was kind of hard because of how different basketball is back home,” Allen said in an interview. “It’s a very different style of play. Since I’ve been here for a few months, I’ve picked up the new playing style a bit. I know in time, maybe by next year or my junior year, I’ll definitely feel more comfortable.”

Allen, born and raised in Switzerland, formed a strong connection with basketball from a young age because her father played Division I basketball at Butler University.

Allen began playing basketball in 2007 and participated in multiple sports throughout her childhood, including soccer and swimming. Allen played for the GC Zürich Lady Wildcats, a club basketball team in Zürich, Switzerland, and for Zürich International School. She chose to continue playing in college because of her skills and her appreciation for the sport as a whole.

“I decided to stick with basketball because I had the most personal connection to it,” Allen said. “I generally liked the attitude around basketball as well, and I felt like it was the sport I was strongest in.”

Allen discovered Emerson while looking for schools with a communication disorders program. She reached out to women’s basketball head coach Bill Gould in 2017 to express her interest in playing for the Lions.

When recruiting players, Gould normally watches an athlete play live at least once. Since Allen is from Wädenswil, Switzerland, Gould used a non-traditional scouting process for her.

“We couldn’t go see her play live because of where she played, which made things a lit-



Chloe Allen is the sole center on the women’s basketball team. • *Cho Yin Rachel Lo / Beacon Staff*

tle tougher,” Gould said in an interview. “But once she sent me the film and I watched it and thought that she was a good player, we started the recruiting process.”

After reaching out to Gould, Allen flew to Boston to visit Emerson’s campus and athletic facilities in Sept. 2018. Although Allen did not know what to expect of the school before she visited, she ended her visit feeling confident about both the college and Gould.

“I ended up getting the right feeling when I toured the school and met with [Gould],” Allen said. “He was really friendly, and I got a really good feeling from him as well.”

Once Allen arrived on campus as a writing, literature and publishing major, she needed to make quite a few adjustments. She said the similarities between Boston and Switzerland made the move easier for her.

“It was definitely a bit of a culture shock,”

Allen said. “I feel like Boston is a very good place to be for an international student. It tailors to a lot of our needs, like the convenience of getting from place to place and having good public transportation is what I’m used to.”

Gould said Allen’s European playing style complements the team’s offensive strategy.

“[Allen] is a typical European post player,” Gould said. “Which is usually more skilled with ball handling, shooting, and passing than your typical American post player. It’s really good to have on the team as it fits right into our offensive scheme. [Allen] has been a huge help in that regard.”

As the only center on the team, Allen said her height helped determine her role.

“On defense, it’s especially helpful,” Allen said. “If the other team happens to have a lot of height, it definitely gives me an advantage. When we’re on offense, it’s definitely important

for me to get down in the post. For [the team], I’m not the most versatile player, I’m mainly a center, so I’m mainly there to provide height.”

Even though Allen’s height and skills help fill the void left by center Charlie Boyle ‘19, Gould said their playing styles are very different.

“[Allen] doesn’t play in the same way that [Boyle] did,” Gould said. “[Allen] is much more versatile in a lot of ways. [Boyle] was such a strong, physical presence down low. [Allen] fills a little bit of that role with her height, reach, and defensive abilities inside. She’s more versatile offensively, she can handle the ball a little bit more, and she’s a solid shooter for a center.”

Senior guard Natalie Clydesdale said Allen’s eagerness to improve and learn helped her adjust to her new role on the team.

“She’s such a coachable player,” Clydesdale said in an interview. “She’s always asking questions and wants to get better, so she’s a really good teammate to have. We changed our offense this year—we play a five-out so having only one center isn’t really an issue. Everyone can pretty much do everything. It’s definitely great having another presence on the court and she’s playing really well.”

After the Lions lost to MIT in the NEWMAC quarterfinals last season, the team’s goal is to win the championship this season. Allen said she wants to help the team reach that goal.

“We’re really pushing ourselves in practice every day and our coaches are pushing us really hard to help us achieve that goal,” Allen said. “It’s hard to be a major part of that, but I want to do my best to support them and help out where I can.”

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Martin leading the charge for the Lions

The sophomore is averaging 17.3 points per game on 49.4 percent shooting



Sophomore Nate Martin palms the basketball with ease in the Bobbi Brown and Steven Plofker Gymnasium on Wednesday night. • *Jakob Menendez / Beacon Staff*

Continued from page 1

Martin said he used the summer to improve on all facets of his game, from his shot-making to his finishing abilities.

“I got a lot of shots up, just trying to become a more consistent shooter and try to work on different finishes around the rim,” Martin said. “We have postseason meetings with the coaches and [finishing] was something that they told me that I need to work on—just being a more consistent finisher around the rim using my athleticism.”

Born in northern Virginia, Martin came from a largely football-oriented family where both Martin’s father and older brother played the sport in high school and college, respectively. But very early on, Martin became attracted to basketball more than anything. He learned to play from his father, as he practiced in the backyard and later transitioned into watching more collegiate and professional basketball games.

Martin enrolled at The Potomac School—an independent K-12 school known for producing college athletes across all three divisions of the NCAA—in kindergarten. He started playing competitive basketball at the age of eight when he joined the Amateur Athletic Union, a

nonprofit multi-sport organization committed to developing and promoting sports programs across the nation.

High school basketball proved to be one of Martin’s greatest learning experiences, especially when he met his varsity basketball head coach Levi Franklin.

“[My brother] had developed a good relationship with the coach, and I really liked Coach Franklin,” Martin said. “[Franklin] instilled a sense of urgency in me playing high school basketball, and he was really hard on me and pushed me in so many ways.”

Martin starred for Potomac as a starter and a two-year captain under Franklin’s guidance. In one season, Martin led the team to a 21-9 record and graduated as one of its most successful players.

Although Martin spent the bulk of his time playing basketball, he remained unsure whether he wanted to continue playing in college. He ultimately decided to continue after meeting with Emerson men’s basketball head coach Bill Curley, associate head coach Jack Barrett, and guard Geoff Gray ‘19.

“I don’t know if I talked to [Martin] much before that, just text and email,” Curley said in an interview. “I saw a video of him playing and

loved his size and what he’s able to do on the court. He’s just very versatile with great size, and he just had something electric about him that we really liked.”

Martin arrived at Emerson in fall 2018 as a marketing major alongside seven other newcomers. Upon meeting Martin for the first time, sophomore guard Trevor McLean described him as a hard-working player.

“I knew from the start that he always wanted to work out with me,” McLean said in an interview. “He always wanted to get in the weight room with me, so I just knew that he was a sponge for basketball knowledge, and he’s a hard worker.”

Curley also praised Martin’s ability to learn and absorb information by observing and paying attention to details.

“He’s one of those guys that scare you because he doesn’t say much,” Curley said. “But he’s sitting there watching, and then when you talk to him, he really knows what’s going on.”

Martin became a key player for the men’s basketball team in just a season and a half. In his freshman year, Martin started 10 of the team’s first 12 games but suffered a quad injury on Jan. 2 against the United States Coast Guard Academy. Martin missed five games before re-

turning on Jan. 23 against Babson College.

For the last 11 games of the season, Martin came off the bench and helped the Lions win the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference championship and secure their first-ever NCAA Tournament bid.

“Last year, we had a special team, and I just wanted to do what I thought would help the team,” Martin said. “So I was just contributing with defensive energy, doing the little things like giving our team a boost so we can win games and win the conference.”

Martin expects his passion and dedication to basketball over the years will pay off—whether it will result in a professional basketball career or a career within the sports industry.

“Hopefully, I can do something around basketball,” Martin said. “If I have a successful career in college and I have the opportunity to play professional basketball, then I feel really blessed and lucky to have that opportunity. Even if I don’t end up doing that, I think staying on sports would be really cool and something that will make me happy.”

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